

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended)

An image forming method comprising the steps of:

developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrying member to form a toner image with toner having an average circularity of 0.94 - 0.99 and an average equivalent circle diameter of 2.6 - 7.4 μm of toner particles,

transferring the formed toner image on a transfer material,

collecting non-transferred toner remaining on the image carrying member for reuse, and

passing the collected non-transferred toner through a toner intermediate chamber, wherein the toner intermediate chamber is provided with a cylindrical or conical structure situated in the vertical direction which separates paper dust or toner granules toward the bottom of said toner intermediate chamber by utilizing spiraling flow of gas.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein a slope of a circularity compared to an equivalent circle diameter of the toner particles is from -0.050 to -0.010.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the toner comprises a resin and the resin is polyester, amorphous polyester, polyurethane, epoxy or polyol.

6. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the toner comprises a resin and the resin is amorphous polyester resin.

7. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 6, wherein the amorphous polyester resin is urethane modified polyester resin.

8. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the average circularity is from 0.95 to 0.98.

9. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the average equivalent circle diameter is 3.4 - 6.6 μm .

10. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the slope of circularity against an equivalent circle diameter is -0.040 to -0.020.

11. (Currently Amended)

The image forming method of claim 2 1, wherein the toner contains a resin prepared by a polyaddition or polycondensation reaction and the resin contains polyester resin, amorphous polyester resin, polyurethane resin, epoxy resin or polyol resin; a slope of the circularity to an equivalent circle diameter of the toner particles being from -0.050 to -0.010, the average circularity being 0.95 - 0.98 and the average equivalent circle diameter being 3.4 - 6.6 μm .

12. (Currently Amended)

The image forming method of claim 11, wherein the toner intermediate chamber is equipped with a toner receiving port ~~capable of~~ for receiving collected toner, a toner discharge port capable ~~of~~ for discharging ~~separated~~ toner, from the intermediate chamber, a gas stream introducing inlet ~~capable of~~ for introducing a gas stream into the ~~aforesaid~~ intermediate chamber, and at least a portion of said toner receiving port is situated ~~at the upper portion in the vertical direction of~~ vertically above said gas stream introducing ~~section~~ inlet.

13. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 11, wherein the slope of circularity to an equivalent circle diameter is -0.040 to -0.020.

14. (Currently Amended)

The image forming method of claim ~~4~~ 21, comprising a step of separation the paper dust and toner granules from the toner in the toner intermediate chamber, wherein the toner intermediate chamber has a cylindrical or conical structure.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended)

The image forming method of claim ~~14~~ 1, wherein the toner intermediate chamber comprises a toner receiving section capable of receiving collected toner, a toner discharging section capable of discharging separated toner and a gas stream introducing port capable of introducing a gas stream into the intermediate chamber.

17. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 16, wherein at least a part of the toner receiving section is situated at the upper portion in the vertical direction of the gas introducing inlet.

18. (Original)

The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the toner contains a releasing agent.

19. (Currently Amended)

The image forming method of claim 1, comprising a step of fixing ~~transferred~~ the toner on the transfer material.

20. (Currently Amended)

An image forming apparatus capable of toner recycling comprising:

a toner receiving section,

a toner feeding section which transfers toner to the toner receiving section,

a toner intermediate chamber through which the toner passes at the time of toner transport to the aforesaid toner feeding section and to the aforesaid toner receiving section,

wherein the toner intermediate chamber is provided with a cylindrical or conical structure situated in the vertical direction which separates paper dust or toner granules toward the bottom of said toner intermediate chamber by utilizing spiraling flow of gas,

a transport tube which connects the aforesaid toner intermediate chamber and the toner receiving section and which transports toner from the intermediate chamber to the toner receiving section, and

a transport device to transport toner from the intermediate chamber by a gas stream, ~~wherein the toner has an average circularity of 0.94 - 0.99 and an average equivalent circle diameter of 2.6 - 7.4 μ m.~~

21. (New)

An image forming method comprising the steps of:

developing an electrostatic latent image formed on an image carrying member to form a toner image with toner having an average circularity of 0.94 - 0.99, an average equivalent circle diameter of 2.6 - 7.4 μm of toner particles;

a slope of a circularity compared to an equivalent circle diameter of the toner particles is from -0.050 to -0.010,

the toner comprises a resin and the resin is polyester, amorphous polyester, polyurethane, epoxy or polyol,

transferring the formed toner image on a transfer material;

collecting non-transferred toner remaining on the image carrying member for reuse; and

passing the collected non-transferred toner through a toner intermediate chamber.

22. (New)

The image forming method of claim 21, wherein the toner comprises a resin and the resin is amorphous polyester resin.

23. (New)

The image forming method of claim 21, wherein the average circularity is from 0.95 to 0.98.

24. (New)

The image forming method of claim 21, wherein the average equivalent circle diameter is 3.4 - 6.6 μm .

25. (New)

The image forming method of claim 21, wherein the slope of circularity against an equivalent circle diameter is -0.040 to -0.020.

26. (New)

The image forming method of claim 21 wherein the average circularity is from 0.95 to 0.98, and the average equivalent circle diameter is 3.4 - 6.6 μm .